

graduate is authority for the statement: "that the students from the best denominational colleges of the west outshine the State university men in the elegancies of speech, in refinement of thought, in a general roundness of education."

Thus we feel safe in saying that the actual indebtedness of education to the church can never be fully estimated, or its influence wholly realized in this present world. And it is no more than justice to give the Christian church credit for the work it has done, and to admit that education owes more to the church and its efforts than to any other force in civilization.

HAVE MIRACLES CEASED?

P. J. BROWN

This question has engaged the attention of many of the readers of the EVANGELIST for several years in the past. I have concluded to investigate the subject to the best of my ability, and give the result to the readers who feel an interest in the same. I find in an old Bible dictionary published by the American Tract Society, an article, under the word Miracle, that completely suits my views, and I believe will be instructive to others, so I will quote it in full.

"Miracle, also called a sign, wonder or mighty work, Acts 2:32, a work so superseding in its higher forms the established laws of nature, as to evince the special interposition of God. A miracle is to be distinguished from wonders wrought by designing men thru artful deceptions, occult sciences, or laws of nature unknown except to adepts. The miracles wrought by Christ, for example, were such as God only could perform; were wrought in public before numerous witnesses, both friends and foes; were open to the most perfect scrutiny; had an end in view worthy of divine sanction; were attested by witnesses whose character and conduct establish their claim to our belief; and are further confirmed by institutions still existing, intended to commemorate them, and dating from the period of the miracles. Christ appealed to his mighty works as inestimable proofs of his divinity and Messiahship. Matt. 9:6; 11:4, 5, 23, 24; John 10:24-27; 20:29-31. The deceptions of the magicians in Egypt and of false prophets in ancient and modern times, Deut. 13:1; Matt. 24:24; II Thess. 2:9; Rev. 13:13, 14, would not bear the above tests. By granting to any man the power to work a miracle, God gave the highest attestation to the truth he should teach and the message he should bring. I Kings 18:38, 39. This is God's own seal, not to be affixed to falsehoods, and tho the lying wonders of satan and his agents were so plausible as to "deceive if possible the very elect," no one who truly sought to know the will of God could be deluded by them. The chief object of miracles having been to authenticate the revelation God has made of his will, these mighty works ceased when the scripture canon was completed and settled and Chris-

tianity was fairly established. Since the close of the first century from the ascension of Christ, few, or no undoubted miracles have been wrought, and whether a sufficient occasion for new miracles will ever arise is known only to God."

This author it will be seen has miracles to cease with the establishment of the gospel and this is certainly in accord with the teaching of the gospel. Christ said to Philip, "Because thou hast seen me thou believest; blessed are they who have not seen and yet believe," John 20:29. These things were written that we might believe. "Walk by faith, not by sight." If we were to believe the latter day miracle workers and their teachings were to meet with universal acceptance we would conclude nobody will die any more. We would lose sight of the gospel and walk by sight of what men do and not by faith in Christ and the gospel. I look upon their work and teaching as a wicked usurpation of authority, vested only in God. A few days ago I received by mail two numbers of a divine healing paper from Chicago, the work was well executed, paper excellent, printing of superior quality, in short the work was as nearly perfect as can be found anywhere. I scanned the contents and found the paper filled with fanaticism, and heresy, and by consultation with better half, cremated both papers at one incineration, "without benefit of clergy."

Almost every year some pious fraud will appear with great pretensions and as there is nothing that people, and especially our American people, like better than to be humbugged, these pretenders always find a sufficient number of dupes to advertise and patronize them. A few years ago one Dr. Dowie opened up business in Chicago, and as this man made quite a stir we hope to be pardoned for examining him somewhat critically. We will state his predicate as reported by his friends thru the EVANGELIST sometime during the year 1893 or 1894, "God never gave a man the grip; God never sends the typhoid fever into a man's body; God never afflicts people in any manner; but it is the devil that does all these things." All of which I most emphatically deny. The premises are false—and the conclusions must be false also. We might call to mind the case of a little boy, and according to the testimony an unusually good boy; he did all he could to please his parents; he was baptized and did all he could to obey and serve God, and strange to tell, according to Dr. Dowie's theory the devil planted a tumor into that boy's stomach. They took him to Dr. Dowie's shop and the boy complied religiously with the Doctor's directions, but alas! the divine healer failed. The boy died and went, as we believe to that country where imposture and quackery are forever barred. Again, we have known, and so have the readers of this article, the best, most pious, most humble Christian people to suffer untold affliction, sorrow, pain and losses. Now in all candor how can any sane man believe

that God would allow the devil the power to afflict people—good people, simply for their torture and the devil's own amusement. Believe it who can, I cannot; will not. The truth is, affliction comes in as a result of the fall; and is the forerunner of death a provision of an allwise providence to release us from mortality and "work for us a far more exceeding and eternal weight of glory." It is the devil's business to keep us away from God and his service. Do we not know that affliction, pain and sorrow, have a tendency to make us seek help from God? But I am ready to take extreme ground upon this question, and affirm that if the devil had any control whatever over the workings of disease, his sagacity would prompt him to keep us all perfectly clear of them, it would be conducive to the success of his cause to do so. He could thereby keep us the longer in his service and away from God. Can it be possible that a man of Dr. Dowie's pretensions would think the devil guilty of such stupidity as to afflict people and drive them away from his service into the service of God? For my part I am willing to give the devil credit for better generalship even if it does reflect upon the wisdom of Dr. Dowie. But the latest arrival in the divine healing business is one, Mr. Truth who operates in Boston, but for the want of patience I forbear giving any of his claims. Let us be satisfied with what God has revealed to us, and make the best use of that and we shall do well.

Congress, O.

THE GREAT MYSTERY

G. A. RUFF.

The body is to die; so much is certain. What lies beyond? No one who passes the charmed boundary comes back to tell the story. The imagination visits the realm of shadowes sent out from some window in the soul over life's restless waters, but wings its way wearily back, with an olive leaf in its beak as a token of emerging life beyond the closely tending horizon. The great sun comes and goes in the heavens, yet breathes no secret of the eternal wildness; the crescent moon cleaves her nightly passage across the upper deep, but tosses overboard no message and displays no signals. The sentinel stars challenge each other as they walk their nightly rounds, but we catch no syllable of their countersign which gives passage to the heavenly camp. Between this and the other life is a great gulf fixed across which neither eye nor foot can travel. The gentle friends whose eyes we closed in their last sleep long years ago, died with rapture in their wonder stricken eyes, a smile of ineffable joy upon their lips, and hands folded over triumphant hearts, but their lips were past speech, and intimated nothing of the vision that enthralled them.

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The boyhood of Jesus should be the model for all boyhood and young life.